

The Boomer



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459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

December 2005

Employer Appreciation Day enlightens 22 bosses



The Boomer

Vol. 50 No. 12

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COMMENTARY

Looking back at 2005

Command Chief Corner

**Chief Master Sgt.
Patti Hickman
Command Chief**



Wow! 2005 has been a fantastic year for the 459th Air Refueling Wing. With the strong leadership of our Wing Commander, Col. Stayce Harris, and the dedicated professionals, all of you, we have so much to be proud of.

Looking back, there's much to celebrate this holiday season. We received an excellent on our deployed members in support of hurricanes Katrina and Rita; adopted Armed Forces Retirement Home veterans who were relocated to the Washington home from Gulfport, Miss.; had a fantastic first reunion of the past and present members of the 459th Airlift Wing, and Air Refueling Wing in addition to the annual 756th Bombardment reunion. And last but certainly not least our

wing flawlessly deployed to Turkey in support of Enduring Freedom!

Many of our members deployed throughout the year and thankfully, they have all come home, however, I ask each of you to remember our fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen who will be defending our freedom away from their families during this holiday season.

The holidays are a time to share good times, good food and the company of friends and loved ones, but this can also be a hectic time. Please be careful and remember to be a good "wingman" by looking out for one another both at work and at home during this festive time of year.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the 459th Air Refueling Wing and our great nation!

As I've mentioned before, it is such an honor to serve with the men and women of the 459 ARW, past and present. Have a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Holiday message: Considering what is really important

**By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander of Air Force
Reserve Command**

As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important - family and friends.

During this time of year, we tend to hold our families a little closer, realizing that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss on the Gulf Coast.

It is your realization of what is important, coupled with your dedication to duty, that enables you to serve our great nation so well. You know the price of freedom and you are willing to pay it.

I salute those who have deployed in harm's way and supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who have worked so hard to assist with hurricane rescue and relief. As in the past, we face new challenges in 2006 - aircraft conversions, participation in



Lt. Gen. John Bradley

air and space expeditionary force deployments and mission changes to name a few.

I am confident you will once again do our country proud. Jan and I wish you and yours happy holidays and a safe, joyous New Year. We are proud of you and what you do for America.

Holy family on the move again

By Chaplain (Capt.) "Chappie" Moore
Wing Chaplain's Office

Can't you just hear it? The sound of the hoof beats, the excitement, the wheels as they creak. The sound of the Holy family on the move again?

Behold this family, at once burden by the weight of unrewarded toil and unending sadness, lifted by the hand of unrepented hope. We hear the faith and feel the fatigue that moves this family forward through the ages. It has become for us the very caravan of expectation, a birth watch that cannot rest and will not wait.

Who are these people? What have they to do with us? Surely, these are pressing questions in this Advent season. Of course, we say we know them.

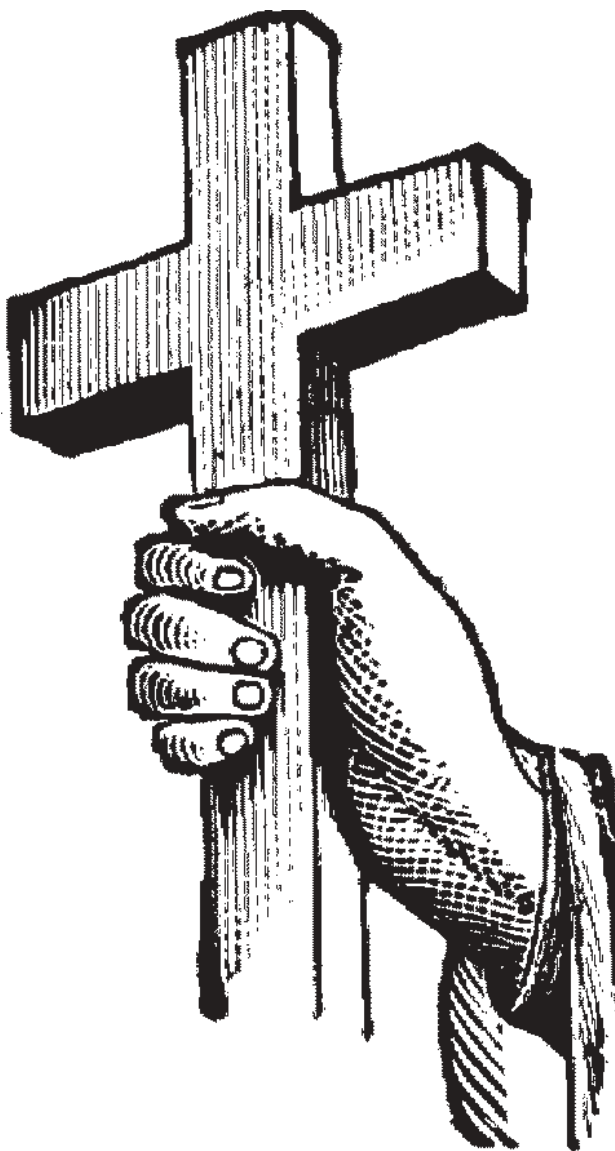
There is Joseph, the carpenter, reassured of late by the angels, but not finished searching for the meaning of these, these visitations he's been having. (Visitations give all of us pause!)

There is Mary filled with child, waiting deliverance from that insistent need known only to women of our kind. There is the unborn child, waiting for the wonders of a world-yet-to-come, and offering that very world to the one that already – is. These are the ones we wait to greet. There are others too.

God's own Holy family counts among its pilgrims, many more, all waiting, and walking for deliverance. This year, feet will shuffle; hands will be reaching for bread, from the 459th to as far as Iraq.

Ladies in waiting will include other homeless mothers than Mary in our day. There are other carpenters, unvisited by angels... or employers. There are unborn and just born babies, waiting for wonders they may not get to see.

There are so many parents without time and so many children without laps in which to take up rest and peace. Every one of these, dear friends, walk these December days as



full members of the Holy family of God.

In the Advent evenings, mornings and midday's we are given this month, I hope we will open our ears and listen. You see, every member of this Holy family appears headed for our door.

Literally, we can hear them coming. Amidst all the Holy day happenings, I hope we will take the time and make ready, so that when they arrive, no one will feel forced or free to say, "No room." I hope our 459th family will

prepare to make room, even in our hearts. For I tell you, should that more familiar Holy family appear at our door, they will most assuredly bring these others with them.

During this Holy day season, regardless if you celebrate and practice a particular faith, let us all long for the one thing that unites us all...love, peace, happiness and hope for all humane kind. Greet each other with a smile, reflect on memories past with joy and look to the future with hope. In this season of celebrations, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Years, remember that everyday is a season of thanksgiving and remembrance. Take the time to bake some cookies (bring me some!), become a child again and remember the joys of the season. Take your family and friends for a drive to view the decorated homes, reach out to others and love!

Can you hear it, even now, the sound of God's own favored family, nearing the Inn of our own heart's knowing? Time to prepare for the Second Comings, that our homes may be havens of blessing and places of peace. My family and I wish you a watchful Advent, a joyous Holy day season, and a faithful New Year.

On the cover



Master Sgt. Erika Macias, 756th Air Refueling Squadron, points out an arriving A-10 ready to be refueled by the KC-135 to an employer on the employer appreciation day flight. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).

Wing pays tribute to veterans at Armed Forces Retirement Home

Story and photos by Capt. Tim Smith
Wing Public Affairs

Cheers, laughter, story-telling and reminiscing was the order of the day when members of the 459th Air Refueling Wing visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., to pay tribute to the veterans who served during wars of our nation's past.

The group of veterans at AFRH were overjoyed when wing members stopped by in November just before Veterans Day. It was also a joy to the members who participated in this heartwarming event.

"It felt really good," said volunteer, Master Sgt. Selda Murphy, 459th Mission Support Squadron. "It was extremely interesting to listen to all the stories."



Capt. Melisa Vines, 459th ARW executive officer, Marie Gonzalez, 459 MOF and Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, 459 ARW command chief, talk with retirees in the AFRH dining facility.

These veterans, men and women, not only have stories, but they also have a wealth of history and experience they were willing to share with anyone who would listen. And they had a very eager and captive audience in the wing members.

"To be in the midst of men and women that have paved the way for me that were filled with so much knowledge and experience was wonderful," said Staff Sgt. Lisa Scarboro, also a volunteer for the day from the 459th Mission Support Squadron. "I think it was more a pleasure for me than it was for them."

This visit was coordinated by the wing's family support office. "It all came about after hurricane Katrina," said Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson, wing family support office.

Hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed much of the Gulf Coast, including the Gulfport, Miss. AFRH. Hurricane victims from the Gulfport AFRH were sent to Washington, D.C.

"The Washington AFRH director asked if we could have volunteers to welcome them. From there it turned into a relationship," said Hutcherson.

The 459th was the buzz in the hallways. When the 459th volunteers pulled up to the facility's door, they were greeted by the staff and were then taken to the meditation room to mingle and share a continental breakfast with these former Soldiers, Sailors, Air-

men and Marines.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Havrilak conducted the tribute portion of the visit. "Being with our nation's heroes, the veterans who served in our past wars is always an exhilarating and uplifting experience for me which renews and refreshes my own desire to serve."

The 459th Air Refueling Wing commander, Col.

Stayce Harris and command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, were also in attendance to offer warm words of thanks and handed out prizes to the oldest and youngest veterans there. Some members from the 459th Retiree Association also volunteered to meet with the veterans and help fa-



Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Havrilak, AFRH Chaplain Ronald Austin surround William Abernathy for a moment during the wing's visit to the retirement home.

cilitate the visit.

It was in the meditation room where bonds were strengthened between the 459th and the veterans. As previously mentioned, stories and experiences were shared, but mutual admiration and respect also developed out of this gathering.

The wing will have an opportunity to talk "service" once again. The wing is scheduled to visit AFRH for a holiday party December 21.



Military retiree John Winter shares a few of his memories with, Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson, 459th Family Support Office, and Master Sgt. Selda Murphy and Staff Sgt. Lisa Scarboro, 459th Mission Support Flight.



Senior Airman Tevra Williams and Staff Sgt. Paul Richardson troubleshoot a computer in the Public Affairs office. (Photos by Capt. Tim Smith).



Staff Sgt. Major Haygood and Senior Airman Anthony Barksdale, disassemble a central processing unit during computer familiarization training.

Communication is more than talk

By Capt. Nikki Credic
Wing Public Affairs

There are a handful in the 459th Air Refueling Wing who possess skills and responsibilities that keep the unit "connected." Their jobs are so vital that without them many actions and processes would come to a screeching halt. Who are these mystery men and women who work behind the scenes at commander's calls and make sure everyone else's work gets accomplished? They are the members of the 459th Communications Flight, and to them "communication" is more than talk.

"We provide communications and information support in a number of areas," said Capt. Alison Farver, the 459th Communications Flight commander. "We do computer support in the form of hardware and software installation and upgrades; troubleshooting; account maintenance; and inventory tracking. Additionally, we have radio, telephone, and network equipment maintainers that work with our Guard and active-duty counterparts to provide support to the base in those areas."

Farver explained that they also act as the functional area managers for the wing's records management system and run the training program for all information managers.

And you thought that fixing your e-mail

boxes were their only concerns.

The 459th Communication Flight is made of three specialties that include computer maintenance personnel, information managers, and communications equipment maintainers.

Training for these specialties is conducted at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and can last between two to six months. The skills learned during the training are very transferable to the civilian market according to Farver and her troops.

"Most of our skills are very transferable," said Farver. "Computer skills are in high demand in the civilian world. Information managers are needed in all areas of business and government. Our network and phone maintainers usually have civilian jobs that mirror what they do in uniform."

Information systems specialist Master Sgt. Michael Fundaro agrees. "The skills I learned in the military are what enable me to get the civilian jobs I have gotten, especially the data networking skills," said Fundaro. "As a telecommunications engineer I can bring aspects of my civilian job into my reserve job, and vice versa. And, of course, the discipline and dedication of what a military career instills are always welcome in the civilian job market."

Staff Sgt. Paul Richardson explained that the skills he has learned have proved profitable.

"Because computers are in just about every aspect of every day life and work, there is always a need for computer support," said Richardson. "I was fortunate enough to acquire some basic Oracle [software] development skills during my active duty time. Those skills have provided a means to move into the civilian world and have been a substantial means of financial income."

For those who may want to join this crew of computer savvy individuals, information technology specialist Airman 1st class Daniel Schneider explained that there are some prerequisites.

"I hope you like reading techno babble and love computers," he said. You should also like people according to Richardson. "Customer service tends to be the core of this career field, in relation to computer support needs," Richardson said. "Be prepared to work directly with users to resolve their issues in a timely and courteous manner."

Farver agreed with the members of her staff and added that a career in communications is worth looking at.

"It's a great career field to get into for both your Air Force duty and your civilian career," she said, "but be prepared for a long tech school and lots of training." In the meantime, Farver believes the most important thing members should know about the 459th Communications Flight is that "we're here to serve."

Clueless? There are solutions

By Capt. Alison Farver
459th Communications Flight

Information is defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary as "knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction."

Communication is defined as "a process by which information is exchanged." And, cluelessness? Well, that's the lack there of.

The 459th Communications Flight is starting an Information Process Tiger Team whose mission is to help you get the information communicated to you when and how

you need it.

We'll be looking at information processes throughout the wing to see if there's some way they can be improved. We want to help you get better, and stay better, informed!

The team will spend the December UTA trying to find out the problem areas.

Don't be surprised if one of us asks you questions about the information you get (or don't get) during the UTA. And if you know of a problem that needs help, don't wait for us to find you, let us know about it.

Traditional reservists, ARTs, commanders,

and first-term Airman, we'd love to hear from you all!

Finally, we'd love to have you on the team. If you think you might be able to help (duties will entail a lot of information processes), or you just plain want the free pizza, come join us.

We'd love to have more team members. The point of contact is Capt. Alison Farver, at (240) 857-2737, or e-mail me at Alison.Farver@andrews.af.mil.

I just wish someone would let me know about:

It is so frustrating when I do not know:

Boy, did I feel clueless on a UTA when:

I could do my job better if they would just let me know about:

I would really prefer if they would inform us by:

CUT OUT AND RETURN TO 459 CF/SCB

Civilian Spotlight

Job Title:

Management Assistant with the Maintenance Operations Flight.

Duties: I do mobility, program and resources. I work with military personnel and civilians.

Length of employment with the 459th ARW: 8 months



What would your dream job be? *To work for the State Department as a diplomat.*

If you wrote an autobiography what would the title be? *Be happy.*

Personal Hobbies: *I play tennis, dance, and I jog 3 times a week.*

Ms. Marie Gonzalez

NCOA veterans helping veterans

By Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Anthony White
Former 459 ARW Recruiter

Are you planning to separate or retire from military service in the near future? Got employment? Do you know who to contact? Where to go? When to start making your plans? Or better yet, how to go about looking for employment opportunities? The Noncommissioned Officers Associations Veterans Employment Assistance is another viable option for you and your family members.

Since 1973, the NCOA VEA has helped thousands of transitioning veterans and their family members enter into the civilian workforce. While maintaining this primary mission, the VEA opens its door to all job seekers throughout the world.

Presently, the VEA manages two programs that reach out to veterans throughout the world. These programs are the National Job Fair and Job Board located at www.militaryjobworld.com. There are no rank restrictions, membership requirements or fees charged to the veterans or civilian job seekers. VEA is not an employment or staffing agency.

A typical NCOA National Job Fair will attract between 500 and 1,000 skilled job seekers and 30 to 70 local and national companies. So far in 2005, the NCOA has hosted 14 job fairs, all in the continental United States, mainly on military installations. Our 2006 Job Fair Schedule is available at www.militaryjobworld.com.

Our job board is an online job database. It's free to all job seekers to post their resume, search for jobs, and read articles and tips that will position them for employment. Job seekers can also find the latest information about the National Job Fair Program to include dates, locations and participating companies.

As a way to get our transitioning service members in front of hiring companies, we're opening up our resume data base to all companies from Dec. 1 – 9. This is what is called our National "On-Line" Job Fair. Job Seekers (especially those who are serving in today's ops tempo) may not have the time to always attend a job fair. This is just another option to get our troops out in front of a company recruiter and sell their skills and

experience on paper (resume) to find suitable employment.

Our participating companies want and desire candidates with military backgrounds because of their integrity, managerial and technical skills, discipline, training and experience. Company recruiters will look at the resumes in our database to seek out potential employees. Again, this service is free to all job seekers. Just go to www.militaryjobworld.com, post your resume and be prepared to be interviewed.

A few of our featured employers are Tallahassee Police Department, U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Secret Service, CACI, Zel Technologies, and Thompson Hospitality just to name a few. These companies have supported us and the troops and for that we are grateful!

We know how hard and frustrating it can be to look for employment. We are here to help you—our servicemen and women find employment! For more information about our National Job Fair Program and our Job Board, visit us at www.militaryjobworld.com.



Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Anthony White, NCOA VEA jobboard manager, briefs former Marine Sgt. Rachel Jimenez about the NCOA Veterans Employment Assistance program.

Employer's see fo 459 ARW

Photos by Master

Civilian employers of 22 reservists enjoyed a wing commander, outlining the mission of the the employers split up into two groups and the privilege of watching our aircrew perform the eight A-10's. Camera's were flashing unconting employers very happy and excited to be four hour flight to Florida and back, the empeducated on what the professionals in the 459



for themselves the mission

Sgt. Shayne Sewell

an informative briefing by Col. Stayce Harris, the 459th Air Refueling Wing. After the briefing, boarded a KC-135. Some employers had the air duties with exciting refueling of a C-17 and rollably during the air refueling mission leaving part of such a spectacular endeavor. After employers were a little tired, but definitely more 9 ARW do. The day was a huge success!



Winter safety tips help prevent holidays from going up in smoke

By Master Sgt. Douglas Rupard
Wing Safety Office

As the holidays draw near, decorative lighting and special effects become important components of the festive season. Christmas trees, in particular, are a traditional part of the season. Although they are special, trees pose a definite safety risk.

If you're using a natural tree this year, reduce the risk of a tree fire by taking the following precautions:

- *Choose a freshly cut green tree, not one that has dried out through weeks of storage. If you are buying one from a tree lot, tap the trunk on the ground; if several needles fall off, it's too dry. Needles that bend and are not easily pulled off indicate a fresh tree. Consider a potted Christmas tree so you can plant it in your yard once the holidays are over.

- *Before setting it up, cut two inches diagonally off the butt. The tree will draw water more easily from a fresh cut.

- *Stand the tree in a tub or bucket of water and keep the tree trunk immersed to prevent the tree from drying out.

- *Select a safe location for the tree, away from drapes and curtains and from drying and heating sources such as, radiators and television sets. Don't block doors or windows which might be used to escape in an emergency and never put a tree near a fireplace!

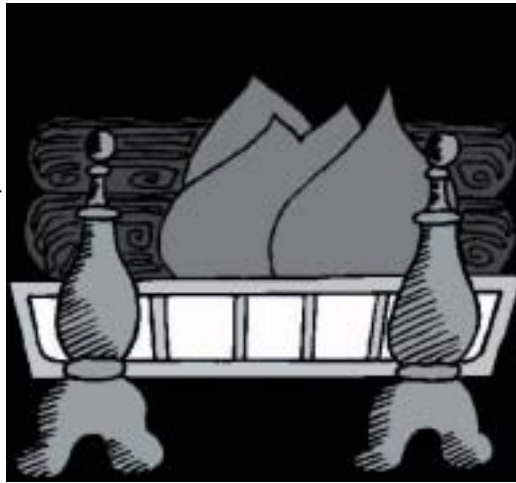
- *Use a tree-stand with widespread legs for better balance and a large water reserve in which to immerse the tree butt. Check the water level every day and add more as required.

- *Check your Christmas lights for defects. Spread them out on a non-flammable surface before installing them. Make sure there are no broken bulbs, all electrical cords are free of cuts or frays and the plugs are in good condition.

- *Extension cords should never be placed under carpets or where they could be a tripping hazard.

- *Don't leave the Christmas tree lights on if there is no one in the room.

- *If the tree begins to lose an excessive amount of needles, remove it immediately.



Wood stove and fireplace safety tips

While fireplaces are usually considered a decorative alternative, the use of a wood stove in the home has become quite a popular choice as the main source of heat. And while the fireplace may cut down on heating bills, keep in mind you are still dealing with fire. And fire can be deadly.

The most immediate hazards of a fireplace or wood stove are these:

- *Fire may escape directly, in the form of hot coals or sparks.

- *Radiant heat may be great enough to ignite nearby combustible materials.

- *Flammable residues in the chimney may catch fire and spread to adjacent wood framing or to the roof.

- *Use proper accessories for your wood burning system. Cradle shaped grates will keep burning logs from falling or rolling beyond the firebox opening.

- *A metal container provides safe transport of ashes, which may contain hot coals. Store them in a safe place outdoors for at least 24 hours before discarding them.

- *Every fireplace requires a close-fitting screen or glass doors to prevent sparks and hot coals from popping out.

- *Pay attention to the fire itself. Never allow a stove to become so hot the metal glows. Heat this intense can cause dangerous cracks.

- *There must be a sufficient supply of fresh air through outside ducts to ensure good

combustion in the fireplace.

- *Don't burn trash, plastic, Christmas trees, wrapping paper or anything that provides a sudden, intense flame.

- *If you do have a chimney fire, cut off the chimney's air supply to starve the fire and call your fire department.

- *Keep a fire extinguisher handy to the fireplace or stove and be trained in its use. A fire extinguisher will not help if you don't know how to use it.

- *Burn only the fuels for which a stove is designed. Avoid any substance that could increase the heat of the fire, starter fluids, coal, cardboard and especially trash.

- *Never store extra firewood so close to the flames it might ignite outside the firebox.

The benefits of stoves and fireplaces can be realized in a safe home environment only through proper installation and regular maintenance.

If you plan to install or alter a stove or a fireplace, the project must be carefully carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and at the same time meet fire prevention or building code regulations of the region where you live. Find out what the building codes are in your area before you begin installations of any kind.

Usually fire codes provide specific instructions for stove placement. It is important to place the appliance a safe distance between the fire and nearby walls as wood can ignite at temperatures as low as 200 degrees F which is much less than the 800 degrees F temperature radiated by some stoves!

Most codes require protective shields behind and beneath a stove and its flue to dissipate heat before it reaches combustible wall or floor materials. Most codes also specify the thickness of the masonry in a fireplace and chimney and the amount of air space that is required between the masonry and combustible interior walls.

Regular inspection, cleaning and maintenance are the best insurance against chimney fires and fires resulting from a damaged stove or flue.

Thoroughly check the entire system before lighting the first fire of the season and repeat inspections on a regular basis every month or so.



Letter to Airmen

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

3 Nov 05

It is an honor to serve as Secretary of the Air Force, and I look forward to working alongside you in keeping our Nation safe. Because of your dedication, skill, and sacrifice, the U.S. Air Force gives an incredible array of options to the President - whether it is taking the fight to the enemy or providing humanitarian assistance to those in the wake of natural disasters. As individuals you are each a national asset and essential to accomplishing the Air Force's mission. As a seamless team, we are able to overcome any challenge.

In the past 14 years, the Air Force team has proven its mettle and skill everyday. Since the days of DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, our Air Force has been globally and continuously engaged in war. We must continue to show the same resolve and determination, in the Global War on Terror. It will be a long war, but one we will win.

Together, let's affirm that today's Air Force is Joint, has a clear mission, and a set of goals to spur continued success. We have a leadership team consisting of the Chief of Staff, General Mike Moseley, Under Secretary Dr. Ron Sega, Vice Chief General John Corley, and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray that has my total confidence as we together set the standard for performance within the larger Defense Family.

The core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do should continue to be internalized throughout the Future Total Force, and in our industry partners that we rely on for support. With these values translated into steady and unswerving resolve and actions, our Air Force will live up to the expectations of the Nation.

Now, some personal viewpoints. I see the **MISSION** of the Air Force as:

Deliver Sovereign Options for the defense of the United States of America, and its global interests -- In Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

To do this, the Air Force must:

1. Prepare for and Participate in the Joint Fight, Anywhere, Anytime
2. Develop, Maintain, and Sustain the Warfighter Edge
3. Provide Motivated, Ethical, Accountable Air Force Warriors



SECAF: Integrity first

The newly confirmed Secretary of the Air Force has set a strong emphasis on both individual and organizational responsibility and accountability — one of his goals for his tenure.

“We have to ... continuously emphasize the integrity of purpose and integrity of the individual,” Secretary Michael W. Wynne said. “The Air Force core values are ... to be revered.”

Accountability is nothing new to the Air Force. It is inherent in the service’s core values — values memorized and recited by Airmen from their first few days in military training.

“If you think about it and move through them in a deliberate way, ‘integrity first’ is a very good way of saying let’s be accountable for our actions and let’s set personal standards and adhere to them,” Secretary Wynne said.

Accountability in the Air Force stretches across many areas, from the individual actions of Airmen in the workplace to actions taken by those in the acquisition community that spend taxpayer dollars to equip the Air Force, said Secretary Wynne.

The secretary is looking to “put in place a governance and transparency so that we foster a process oversight that maybe we never had before. Say what you are going to do, and do what you say. Set a standard and then adhere to the standard. I think in (most places) it is already there,” the Secretary said.

In the past few years, there have been several issues that have caused some to question the service’s commitment to its core values. Secretary Wynne says the formula for regaining and keeping confidence in the Air Force is simple.

“If we can sustain the mutual respect and integrity, and have people accountable to the standard, we will drive away a lot of our critics,” he said. “Our critics will become bored with people who set high standards and then adhere to those high standards.”

Airmen should verify deployment credit

Airmen not issued contingency, exercise or deployment orders should verify their personnel records include credit for those deployments.

A deployment is any temporary duty away from home station filling a validated combatant or component commander or supported

major command requirement for forces in support of a named operation or exercise.

Airmen should ensure they received credit for these kind of deployments because, in some instances, units have deployed Airmen under Defense Department Form 1610s or NATO travel orders.

However, to receive deployment credit, Air Force Instruction 36-2134, Air Force Duty Status Program, requires CED orders to update temporary duty, or TDY, histories in the Military Personnel Data System.

Airmen can verify their Type 1 TDY deployment history has been updated through their commander’s support staff or personnel employment section at their servicing military personnel flight. If an Airman’s Type 1 TDY deployment has not been updated in their TDY history, a completed travel voucher and at least one of the following source documents are required to receive credit:

- Certified CED orders.
- Certified non-CED orders.
- Approved decoration.
- Officer or enlisted performance report.
- Finalized letter of evaluation.
- A letter of justification from a squadron commander or higher.

All source documents must identify the Airman and state the named operation or exercise supported for the duration of the TDY.

In the future, all Airmen who are not issued CED orders for eligible deployments should make every effort to notify their respective commander’s support staff or servicing military personnel flight personnel readiness function before departure. If they cannot correct orders before leaving, they may do so after returning from the deployment.

For more information, call the personnel center’s field activities office at DSN 665-2671 or commercial (210) 565-2671.

DOD seeks more civilians for flexible spending accounts

It may be the most underused good deal in the government. But less than 5 percent of eligible Department of Defense employees have enrolled to use flexible-spending accounts.

The benefit, also known as FSAFEDS, allows federal employees to set aside pre-tax money for a wide range of medical and dependent-care expenses. The FSAFEDS Open Season runs through Dec. 12.

There are two types of flexible-spending accounts. The Health Care FSA allows employees to pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance. For example, most insurance programs have co-pays. That money can be reimbursed via the flexible-spending account. The FSA can also reimburse for prescriptions, glasses or eye care, dental procedures, orthodontia, medical screening tests, and even nonprescription over-the-counter medicines. A second account is for dependent care. This reimburses employees for expenses incurred for child care or elder care.

There are significant changes in the program this year from the past. Employees can elect to pay \$5,000 into the accounts, up from \$4,000, and can file claims against the new year’s account through May 31, 2007. Employees who want to enroll in the program can get more information online at www.fsafeds.com or via toll-free (877) FSA-FEDS or (877) 372-3337. The Web site also has an online calculator that can give employees an idea of savings they can earn.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Maj. Todd M Adams
Maj. William C. Short
Senior Master Sgt. Darell S. Wilson
Master Sgt. Roger W. Stone



AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Nikki G Credic
Master Sgt. Rose A. Lemp
Master Sgt. Harold E. Marbury
Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Parker



AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Tech. Sgt. Raymond G. Mcshane

Promotions

Master Sgt. Crystal Smith
Master Sgt. Jacqueline Mack
Master Sgt. Roderick Lee
Master Sgt. Sylvia Brooks
Master Sgt Daril Anthes
Master Sgt Hunter Plog



Senior Airman John Millshearne
Senior Airman Shaquita Darby
Senior Airman Rebecca Lancaster



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Caddle
Tech. Sgt. April Hutson
Tech. Sgt. Kelly Dickerson
Tech. Sgt. Calvin Keyser
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Washington
Tech. Sgt. Earl Wilkerson



Airman First Class Craig White



Staff Sgt. Patrick Artis
Staff Sgt. Raymond Barlow
Staff Sgt. Eric Scott
Staff Sgt. Candice Walker
Staff Sgt. Karalee Mulsow
Staff Sgt. Adam Parson
Staff Sgt. Christopher Praet



Airman Jeremy Kilpatrick
Airman Ashlee Strain
Airman Shanai Thomas

BDU is Uniform of Day

We are a nation at war and everyone working in Headquarters Air Force must remember that our primary job is to provide the best support they can to the warfighter. Many of our fellow Airmen are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, others are now deployed aiding relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. Wearing our BDUs and flight suits as our duty uniform every day will serve as a constant reminder to us, and those who we come in contact with, that our job is to support our fellow warriors.

Effective Sept. 12, 2005, the uniform of the day for Air Force personnel working in Headquarters Air Force will be BDU or flight suit. In the past, DCUs were allowed during Warrior Day, but this rule is now rescinded. Only woodland pattern BDU, the new airman battle uniform, or green flight suits are allowed. There is no change of attire required for our civilian members.

Of course there are exceptions. For example, should you be part of the official party at a retirement, promotion, or change of command (Sq or above) ceremony, service dress Uniform would be appropriate and certainly allowed. Additionally, wearing the Service Dress for appointments/events that take you out of your work area to such places/events as Capital Hill, the White House, or the AFA Conference, again Service Dress is more appropriate.

Thank you for doing your part to remind others what our primary focus is: supporting the warfighter! Please ensure this message receives the widest dissemination.

Thanks,
Arthur J. Lichte
Lt Gen, USAF
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

First Sergeant Vacancy

459th Security Forces Squadron

The First Sergeant position is available in 459 SFS. If interested, submit a resume reflecting your military and civilian work history, awards, and education. Also include a letter of recommendation from your squadron commander and a letter explaining why you're interested in becoming a first sergeant. Submit packages to Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, 459 ARW Command Chief, by noon, Dec. 17.

E-Exam Computer-Based Training Program

In early 2005, the E-Exam computer-based testing program will be implemented by 459 MSF Wing Training. Most CDC and PME exams will be administered on the computer, and scored before the student leaves the test room. This system will ultimately eliminate the two week or longer mailing time for paper-based exams and another two weeks for results. Individuals with paper-based exams on file will be allowed to complete them, while others will be required to take the final exam on a testing computer. Wing Training will provide more information as it becomes available.

Parenting Class

The Family Support Office is offering the class, parent to parent. This program will show you what to look for, how to act and/or react and the how to use acronym of P.A.R.E.N.T. as a guide to getting your kids through the adolescent years without significant involvement with drugs, alcohol, or violence.

The instructor, Master Sgt. Joe Amorese 459 AMDS, has been a deputy sheriff in Rochester, N.Y., for the past 23 and a half years and a former 15-year Air Force security policeman. He is certified by the Air Force as an academic instructor and by the state of New York as a police instructor in general topics, and he is a police mental health instructor.

The class will be held in the Mission Support Group conference room, (Rm 128), Saturday, Jan. 29, noon to 1:30 p.m.. Bring your lunch and get some valuable training on the hardest job you'll ever have. Seats are limited. To sign up, please e-mail Jennifer.hutcherson@andrews.af.mil

Change of Address

When your address changes, you have to update it in at least four places. The first is your unit for your recall roster. The others you can do at your computer. To update your address in DEERS without going to the military personnel flight, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>. To update your address in MILPDS, go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/. To update your address with military pay without going to the pay office, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

459th ARW Holiday Party

The Family Support Office invites you and your family to attend a holiday celebration Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the fuel cell.

Spreading the Christmas Spirit

You are invited to join members of the 459 ARW to have lunch and bring cookies to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson at (240) 857-7048 or Chaplain Havrilak at (240) 857-4586 to sign up.

PAY DAYS

<i>Run Date</i>	<i>Check Date</i>
December 6	December 13
December 8	December 15
December 12	December 21
December 13	December 23
December 15	December 30

Military Pay Hours of Operation

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Closed UTA Sun.
Office: (240) 857-0314/0315
Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

FY 2006 UTA SCHEDULE

Dec. 17-18, Alt 3-4
Jan. 28-29, Alt 7-8
Feb. 25-26, Alt 11-12
March 25-26, Alt 11-12
April 29-30, Alt 8-9
May 13-14, No Alt
June 8-11 ORI Flyaway
June 24-25, No Alt
July 29-30, Alt 15-16
Aug. 26-27, Alt 12-13
Sep 23-24, Alt 9-10



Senior Airman Robert Tucker and Staff Sgt. Ronald Bond, 459th Security Forces Squadron, assists a team of security force members to assemble and disassemble a tent on Warrior Day held during the November UTA. All members of the 459 ARW performed routine duties and training in their chemical warfare ensemble. (Photos by Capt. Tim Smith).



Warrior Day



459TH AIR REFUELING WING
AIR FORCE RESERVE
3755 PATRICK AVENUE
ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

First Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Temple Hills MD
Permit No. 4004